

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Sinclair is a prime example of monopolies and the results are not surprising. It is one thing for people to pay for a movie admission to see a "doco" like 9/11 but quite another for public airways to be used for propaganda. It is a violation of public trust and Sinclair must be accountable for its behavior. The expectation is for the program to change minds and influence the vote or the program would not be aired, therefore it is not a non-partisan news show. Our free public airways should be for all not just the rich and powerful. It is the FCC's obligation to make the process fair and equitable.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.